

**In the Claims**

For the convenience of the Examiner, all pending claims are set forth below, whether or not an amendment is made. Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for improving the operational performance of a database system, the method comprising:

determining whether an instruction or operation adds an information entry or removes the information entry from the database system, wherein for an add entry operation, the information entry is first added to an 'out' table, and wherein for a remove entry operation, the information entry is first removed from an 'in' table; and

determining whether the instruction or operation is part of a modify entry instruction, the modify entry instruction operable to modify the information entry, the modify entry instruction comprising a plurality of add and remove entry operations.

2. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the information entry is added to the 'in' table after being added to the 'out' table.

3. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the information entry is removed from the 'out' table after being removed from the 'in' table.

4. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising performing one entry operation of the plurality of both the add and remove entry operations if the instruction or operation is determined to be part of the modify entry instruction.

5. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the instructions are implemented via a directory system such as X.500 or LDAP.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A directory service arrangement including:

a database using a plurality of tables, each table having a plurality of rows and columns, and storing arbitrary data, and

means for processing an instruction or operation by determining whether the instruction or operation adds an information entry or removes the information entry from the database, wherein for an add entry operation, the information entry is first added to the 'out' table, and wherein for a remove entry operation, the information entry is first removed from the 'in' table; and

means for processing an instruction or operation by determining whether the instruction is part of a modify entry instruction, the modify entry instruction operable to modify the information entry, the modify entry instruction comprising a plurality of add and remove entry operations.

12. (Original) The arrangement as claimed in claim 11 being a directory services system such as X.500 or LDAP.